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Argentina

Police Chief's Murder

The killing yesterday of Argentina's federal police chief Cardozo marked the fourth attack on a military man by leftist terrorists in the past week. Two other officers were killed, and a third drove off his assailants.

Cardozo was killed by a bomb after he entered his home; three family members with him were injured. Although neither the Montoneros nor the Peoples Revolutionary Army, the principal terrorist groups, has yet claimed credit for the assassination, it was almost certainly the work of one of these organizations. Both have been engaged in open warfare with the military and police for several years.

The terrorists hope the violence will provoke such a harsh response from the security forces that the public will repudiate the government. There are "hard-line" officers who have been pressing President Videla to abandon his moderate approach and use stronger measures against the terrorists. The president has resisted thus far, but each additional terrorist act gives greater weight to the arguments of the "hard-liners."

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